

# Andre made harbormaster

ROCKPORT — In Welles, III. chief executive of Oceanus, and CWO Kenneth Black, Rockport's celebrated commander of the Andre the Seal was made an Oceanus Marshal. Present were Adm. E. R.

Andre as Marshal Oceanus and pollution patrol seal.

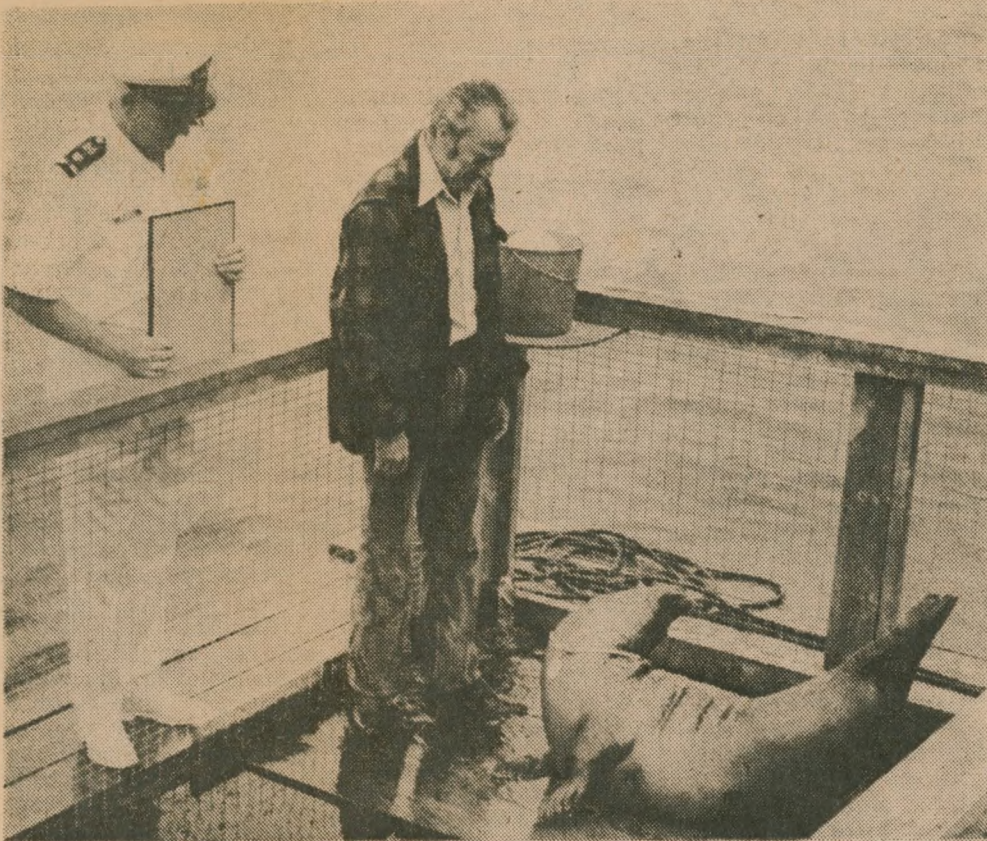
Andre's owner, Harry Goodridge, placed a collar and appropriate badge of office around the neck of the seal. Following the ceremonies Andre performed tricks and stunts in his floating pen to the delight of residents and guests gathered for the occasion.

Oceanus, with headquarters at Manset, is an organization dedicated to saving the oceans of the world from pollution. The aims of the organization were outlined by Wells, and Black noted the Coast Guard's involvement and dedication to pollution control.

Andre seemed bored by the whole procedure and was much more interested in wrangling a morsel of fish from Goodridge during the ceremonies.

The certificate of office from Wells to Andre, the first non-human harbormaster in the world, read in part:

"It is hoped his (Andre) service as an Oceanus Marshal will assist in Oceanus efforts to discourage pollution and the killings thereby in all seas and the world's environment, maybe as much as Smokey the Bear has assisted in preventing forest fires."



## Oceanus marshal

Andre the Seal, celebrated fixture of Rockport Harbor and a delight to residents and guests with his antics and tricks, was made a Marshal of Oceanus in dockside ceremonies Wednesday. Rockland Coast

Guard Commander Kenneth Black, left, read a certificate, and Andre's handler, Harry Goodridge, presented the seal with his badge of office. (NEWS Photo by Ted Sylvester)

Bangor (Me) Daily News Thurs 7/5/73



## Andre The Seal Becomes Marshal Of Oceanus

ROCKPORT — The Fourth of July held meaning for meaning for more than patriotic Americans. This year it held special significance for Andre, the famous Rockport seal and only non-human harbormaster in the world.

At 2 p.m. at the Rockport Harbor, where Andre frequently delights crowd s with performances of numerous tricks, the seal was presented a new honor. He was made a marshal of Oceanus and formally presented with a badge of office and certificate of his commission by CWO Kenneth Black, commandant of the Rockland Coast Guard Station. Adm. Edward R. Welles III, executive admiral of Oceanus presided, accompanied by the associate Oceanus attorney general.

Oceanus, with headquarters at Manset, Maine, is an organization dedicated to saving the oceans of the world from pollution. Andre is a perfect symbol of the creatures of the deep that Oceanus is trying to save.

In accepting the honors and giving his thanks, Andre, with assistance from his guardian and friend, Harry Goodridge, performed before a delighted audience, playing ball, jumping through hoops, rolling over and giving a final bow.



*Andre performs under Guardian Goodridge's tutelage*



# Andre just a ham in sealskin

By Emmett Meara  
Special to The Globe

ROCKPORT, Maine — Although he may get some competition from some of the summer theaters along the coast, Andre the seal earned the reputation of the biggest "ham" in the state. He will do anything for an audience — or a fish.

Andre, the most famous resident of Rockport Harbor, does two shows daily, with his trainer, Harry Goodridge, at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m., admission free. The shows coincide, not coincidentally, with his feeding time.

But as far as Andre is concerned, the bigger the audience the better the show. There was never anything planned in the daily Andre and Harry shows. The Maine residents just sort of drifted together.

Goodridge, a commercial diver, spotted Andre playing with the seals of Penobscot Bay. He was impressed by the intelligence of the seals and although Andre wasn't the brightest or best, the pair hit it off.

Eventually, Andre started following the Goodridge boat into Rockport Harbor, waiting around for it to go out again. Between trips, the mischievous seal showed his talents by leaping into small rowboats, just for laughs.

"I remember the time he picked the oars right out of my brother's hands," one veteran fisherman laughed.

This may seem funny on dry land, but Goodridge knew this playfulness could result in disaster.

So, he and some friends built a wire cage about 20 feet long, eight feet wide and 10 feet deep and put it in the middle of the harbor, right in front of the parking lot, of course. Goodridge made nightly runs to feed the voluntarily confined animal, and they started doing tricks together. After watching the team go through its

now-polished routine, one harbor regular said, "It wouldn't surprise me to see Andre drive Harry home some night. He can do everything else."

The performance is distinctive for the subtlety of command.

Before Goodridge is even out of the boat, he is asking his costar what he thinks of the television star "Flipper." The immediate response has been called both "The Bronx cheer" and the "old raspberry."

Any seal worth his whiskers can leap through a hoop or a tire. Andre does this trick with dispatch. Then Goodridge chides the seal, "That's easy; let's see if you can show them how you used to do it, when you were learning."

The seal takes a deep dive, flashes to the surface and lands high and dry, hung up on the tire. He even manages to look awkward, professionally, of course.

Goodridge and friend then flow through their routine which includes singing and dancing together, blowing the seal's nose, playing dead and rolling over.

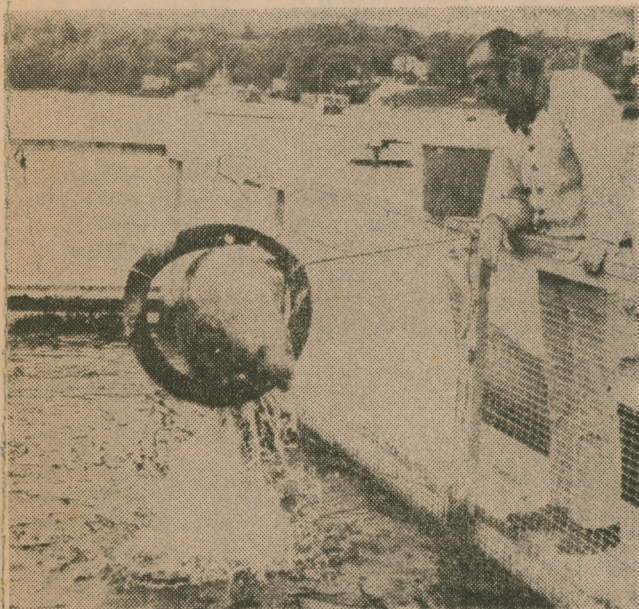
When Goodridge pretends to go the seal playfully splashes water at him. Feigning anger, Goodridge kicks at the seal, lying patiently on the deck of the cage. The seal bites at Goodridge's leg, and holds on to the cuff.

"What am I going to do?" Goodridge asks the audience of the day. "What is the magic word for a seal?"

"Fish," chorus of youngsters screams, and the seal opens his mouth to release the pant leg and wait for the last fish.

In the off season, Andre is freed. He usually goes south for the winter, being spotted most frequently in Rockland Harbor, some eight miles away.

But every spring the seal returns to Rockport Harbor — to his friend and show business.



SHOW BIZ—Harry Goodridge and Andre go over a routine for one of their shows in Rockport, Maine.



# Andre

(Continued from Page One)

impressed, Goodridge said, "They were a bit ho-hum about his arrival except for one young female named Lucy who followed him around."

It has been hoped that Andre would take a mate to produce offspring and "things look good for this summer," Goodridge said. The seal has had two favorite females at the Aquarium, and other wild seals have been visiting in Rockport Harbor during the summers.

Other plans for next summer include the building of a new cage, to be financed by contributions. Andre will return in the spring to his old cage and will then be transferred to his new digs when the new cage is built, his trainer said.

After he returned from Boston, Goodridge said the plane trip was definitely a good idea and he hopes that Andre will be able to make a similar trip next year, depending on the size of his bank account. "People have been very generous to him this summer," the trainer said.







# Portland Press Herald

Tuesday, October 9, 1973

11

## Andre Getting Older, To Winter In Boston

ROCKPORT — Andre's going south for the winter soon.

For the first time in his 13 years, Rockport's official honorary harbor master — Andre the trained seal — won't have his winter freedom.

He won't be going to Florida, however. Harry Goodridge, the scuba diving tree expert who trained Andre, said the seal will go to the New England Aquarium in Boston.

Andre spends his summers in a special wooden pen, which is hauled onto the public landing twice daily where he puts on a range of acts wider than those of sea lions, getting his payment in fish.

When winter comes he is released by Goodridge with the freedom of the harbor. When he was younger, Andre was known to make his own way southward as far away as Marblehead, safely returning home for the summer.

He's pretty heavy now, and when out on his own he has been known to bug boatmen, and in one instance, even tipped over a canoe, luckily without harm to the occupants.

So Goodridge is accepting an offer of the New England Aquarium for Andre to share a new seal pool with a couple of other harbor seals this winter.

And when spring comes, as an experiment, plans are to release Andre in Boston Harbor and he will be timed while his homing instinct brings him back to Rockport.



*Andre rests quietly after a performance*





How about a fish?

# Seals

**Continued from Page 1**

he got into the harness by himself."

After Maine harbor seals are born in May or early June, the cows accept their new mates almost immediately and the process begins all over again. The pups nurse for three or four weeks during which time they are trained by their mothers. The seals see equally well both in and out of the water and also have finely-tuned senses of smell and hearing. Scientists believe they possess some sort of radar which allows them, perhaps through their sensitive whiskers, to locate and identify objects a mile or more away.

When the law protecting seals was passed, a few wardens believed that the fish industry would be threatened by the growing herds of harbor seals but there is no proof that

this is occurring. Certainly the foreign trawlers off shore are accomplishing the rape of the fishing areas with much greater efficiency than the returning seal herds. Probably because they disliked the protection law, those same wardens let it be known that the law was so stringent that even when a dead seal washed up on the beach it couldn't be removed except by Federal men. Richardson says that isn't true. "The law was written to protect them from harm. If a seal is washed up, it should be reported to the Federal warden or the fisheries warden but technically the Town is responsible for removal. In the case of a live animal, cooperation from citizens is requested. It's not a hands-off policy. The seal should either be put back into the water, or, if it refuses to leave the beach, should be cared for until a warden arrives."



One of the best known characters in town is going south for the winter. The move is worth noting because Andre, Rockport's trained seal, has never spent a winter in all his 13 years doing anything he did not choose to do.

This winter Andre will lead a captive existence in the Aquarium in Boston. At any rate it will be a new experience. Ever since he was a pup - all of two days old when his owner and trainer, Harry Goodridge, found him - Andre has spent the winter in total freedom. When he was less than a year old, he made his way to Marblehead where he identified himself unmistakably by posing on command for photographers. But each spring he returns to Rockport harbor where he spends the summers in a wooden pen and performs daily for tourists.

Next spring Andre will be released from the Aquarium and put into the sea for the long swim home. Harry Goodridge says Andre may have traveled to Boston anyway at some time during his winters of freedom. He expects that when Andre is turned loose from the Aquarium he "will be so intent on getting back to Rockport" that he'll head straight home.

The whole trip was made necessary because Andre - now a hefty 200 pounds - still thinks of himself as a playful pup. He grabs at oars of small boats, tries to climb aboard out of curiosity, and has succeeded in upsetting one, giving the occupants a chilly swim to shore.

Some day soon now, Harry Goodridge will help put Andre in a van for the trip to Boston. He says Andre loves to ride in cars - and has many times. Mr. Goodridge has raised a number of seals but none has remained around as long as Andre. He has established a firm place for himself in the community.

We hope he enjoys his winter before the admiring gaze of Bostonians. Even more, we hope he finds his way home to Rockport soon after the ice breaks in the spring.

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## Herald Files

*Edited by Lucile Garland*

The Wentworth Farm in Hope installed the latest mechanical grader for apples. It took an active crew of six or more, packing and storing, to keep up with the machine's production.

For the month of October Mrs. Daniel Harding was president of Women's Fellowship at the Congregational Church and Mrs. Emerson Rawley was in charge of devotions.

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## Super Seal Supper Show

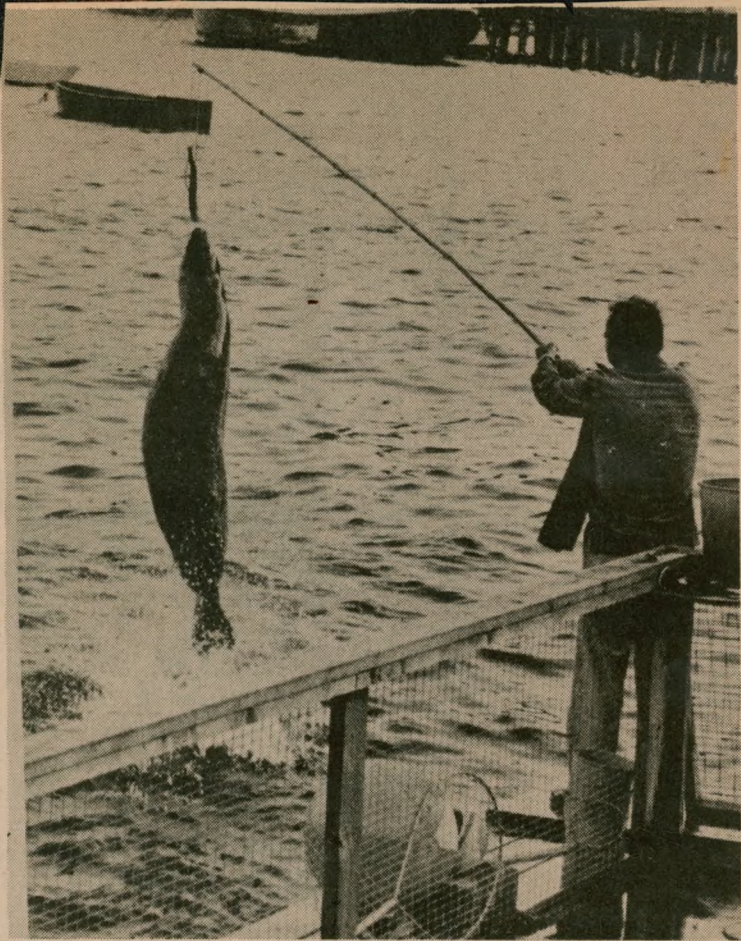
Every evening at 7 p.m., tide and weather permitting, feeding time for Andre the seal and two new members of Harry Goodridge's ocean-dwelling family, shown above, is the event at Rockport Harbor. Not only do the seals dispatch their supper with taste and gusto, but led by old pro Andre, who has nine years on the boards now, there is a whole show with flying flippers, sea chanties seal style, a basketball game and hoop-la, all for some fresh fish and the applause of the starstruck multitude which crowds the dock for every Supper Show. Andre is also Honorary Harbor Master, which duties he performs throughout the winter with true dedication, keeping an eye over all, snow or storms notwithstanding. Owner Harry Goodridge, shown here guiding his proteges, is famous as a seal trainer all over the country.

Koegle Photos



Camden Herald  
July 23, 1970





Camden Herald  
July 23, 1970



# An open letter to "Real People"

Dear Sirs:

We were aware of, and excited about your coming last summer to Rockport, Maine, near our hometown of Camden, where we spend summers, to film a sequence about Andre the Seal, Honorary Harbormaster and darling of natives and tourists alike. Thereafter came rumors galore and considerable newspaper coverage regarding the imminent appearance on TV's "Real People" Show of our famous Andre — yet it never aired, to the dismay of many of us. This was repeated in late fall, after our return to Florida, with precisely the same treatment. Tonight we watched eagerly, having seen a TV spot announcement this morning, complete with glimpses of Andre, promising as before, a segment about him. However there was not one reference to him in the actual show, much less any film about him, so we were disappointed for the third time.

It's hard for us to imagine any TV show given the exposure accorded to "Real People" with such poor previewing and editing that its director is not fully aware before air time exactly what will be shown. What could have been used to your advantage in developing an enthusiastic following is becoming, instead, a credibility gap.

Andre is a rather special seal, famous for his unusual upbringing; so, too, is the man who found and befriended him as a lonely pup, and trained him to do a number of quite amazing tricks. We feel you have done a disservice to his friend and trainer, Harry Goodridge, his fans, both local and far flung, who have enjoyed his daily performances, to say nothing of Andre, who cannot speak for himself. We suggest that you have a debt to a considerable group, which has been led to expect to see Andre on your show, and that it's about time the debt is paid!

Mrs. Dwight Lord  
Venice, Florida

1971



November 1971  
Newburyport DAILY News  
**This slippery character  
is wanted by everyone ...**

By JOHN FITZGERALD

**SALISBURY** — Police Sgt. Charles Goodridge reported this week that a slippery character, known only as Andre, is at large in the underworld and can be expected to surface anywhere at any time.

Goodridge said in a similar escape attempt five years ago, Andre slipped out of Maine turning up a number of weeks later in Marblehead.

"Yes, Andre is on the loose right now. He can go where he wants to," Goodridge said. He's

more concerned with Andre's movements than anyone else on the police force. Goodridge feels he is almost a relative of the fugitive. His brother Harry A. Goodridge is "Andre's mother," according to the policeman.

Andre, an eight year old trained seal was captured by Harry Goodridge in Rockport, Maine, harbor when he was just a pup. Harry trained Andre and currently the two present a free show summer evenings on the wharf at Rockport.

In the early days Andre was kept by Harry in a bath tub at his

home. When the seal grew to ocean-sized proportions, Harry brought him to the wharf and put him back where he came from.

At first he showed up for every practice and twice a day for feeding. However, five years ago Andre grew restless. Harry figured the kid would have to drop out for a while and do his own thing. Andre disappeared for a few weeks, and finally, came ashore in Marblehead. The seal was his old show stopping, loveable self, drawing crowds to the beach to watch him. The town quickly passed a bylaw prohibiting anyone from shooting the valuable vaudevillian. He appeared nightly on the rocks.

When word got back to Maine about the sensational seal's solo seaside show, Harry Goodridge knew who the overnight success was. He called Sgt. Goodridge's son, Jack, and asked him to go to Marblehead and identify the seal. Even when Jack Goodridge called his uncle to confirm that Andre was doing Marblehead circuit, Harry Goodridge sat tight and continued making nightly visits to the wharf in Rockport.

Andre flipped around Marblehead for a couple of weeks, and then left without a curtain call. It wasn't long before he was waiting beside the wharf for Harry.

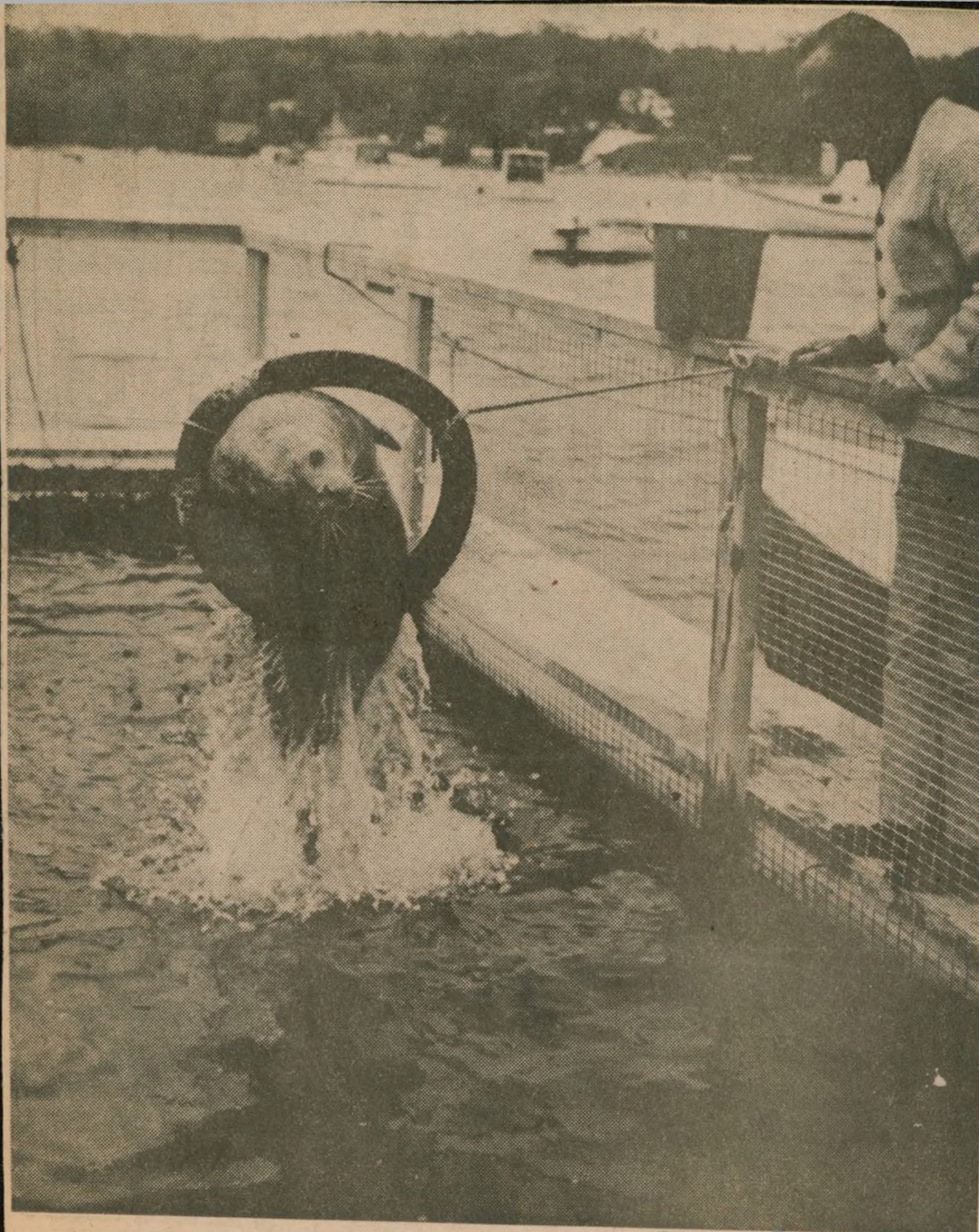
The two have worked together since. Every summer night on the wharf, no admission, just pass the hat after for Andre's dinner. Every winter Andre takes a vacation. No one knows where, but now and then he checks back in Rockport to see the boss. Last year ice in the harbor kept them apart for two months, but when it thawed Andre was there, waiting for supper. Free winters seem to satisfy him; he hasn't missed a performance since his Marblehead stint.

Harry Goodridge grew up in Salisbury, was educated in town, graduated from Amesbury High and forestry school in Wanakeenna, N.Y. He married a Rockport, Maine, girl. He was overseas for thirty-six months during the World War II, when his wife, Thalice, had twins. He did not see them until almost three years after they were born. While here, Goodridge served two years as postmaster, filling in for his father Harry B., former town clerk.

He is an arborist and parttime commercial diver who hunts seals for aquatic zoos on the side. Andre's act has won the pair friends across the nation, and landed them in the pages of Life and Argosy. This week they were on television, appearing as guests on "To Tell The Truth."

The Navy was once interested in Andre's act. Sgt. Goodridge said his brother can enter the water with Scuba gear four miles from Andre, and within minutes, the two are playing together. The Navy saw possibilities in search and rescue.





*Andre And Harry* **BANGOR DAILY** 6/19/72

Performing twice daily in Rockport Harbor are the team of Harry and Andre, with fancy patter, songs and dancing. Perfecting their act for the

past 11 years, the team has to be seen to be believed. Where is Ed Sullivan now that we need him? (Meara Photos)

# Man's Best Friend: A Seal

By EMMETT MEARA  
NEWS Rockland Bureau  
ROCKPORT — "Andre" is the biggest ham on the Maine coast.

He will do anything for an audience - or a fish. The most famous resident of Rockport Harbor, age 11, does two shows daily at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. which coincides with feeding time.

Many times, he will do a complete show for one person, his "trainer" Harry Goodridge, as long as Harry brings the fish. But the more the merrier and the better the show.

Andre, age 11 (old for a seal) was in rare form Thursday night. Not only had Harry brought along three guests, but the supper crowd from the neighboring posh restaurants

stood for the show and a few more customers were in parked cars along the waterfront, in front of Andre's cage-home.

Andre stays in Rockport's neat little harbor completely voluntarily but he is plain just too friendly to let roam freely. A Rockport lobsterman told a few tales of the rambunctious seal, leaping in a small rowboat, just for a laugh.

"You can imagine someone's surprise when a seal leaps out of the water into your rowboat," the fisherman laughed. "One time he picked an oar right out of my brother's hands while he was rowing out to his boat."

As funny as this may seem on land, this playful attitude on the water could lead to trouble, so Andre has voluntarily agreed to

live in the cage, about 20 feet by 8 feet and some 10 feet deep.

What the heck, it has all he needs — a hoop to leap through, a stage to do his act and a few props, like balls and things to keep 'em rolling in the aisles — as long as Harry brings the fish.

Harry explained that the two just sort of drifted together. Harry is a professional diver who spends a lot of time, naturally on the water. "What am I going to have for a pet — a dog?" he asked. Dogs and boats just don't mix, he said.



So he started working with the seals of Penobscot Bay. It was nothing planned, but Andre and Harry seemed to hit it off, and all of a sudden the seal was hanging around the harbor, looking for his friend. Since then the pair have been polishing their act.

After watching the pair run through their routine it wouldn't surprise people too much to see Andre come out of the water and drive Goodridge home some night. It seems he can do anything else.

Before Goodridge is even out of the boat, he is asking his co-star what he thinks of television's famous dolphin "Flipper". The seal hears the name and snorts his disgust at such an overrated performer. Then he waits for the fish.

Any seal worth his whiskers can leap through a hoop. Andre, after performing this feat easily, gets the command from Goodridge to "show them how you did it when you first started".

The seal takes a deep dive, then leaps halfway through the hoop - actually a bicycle tire - then balances evenly on the rim, high and dry.

Goodridge and friend then perform tricks like blowing the seal's nose audibly into a handkerchief, playing dead, rolling over and dancing and singing along with Goodridge.

Then Andre playfully splashes Goodridge, who feigns anger and pretends to kick the seal, who menacingly bites his leg, hanging on to the pant leg.

"What am I going to do?" Goodridge implores the closest audience composed of two children. "What is the magic word for a seal?"

"Fish," screams one of them.

The second the seal hears the word, he releases the pant leg and opens his ever-ready mouth for more fish.

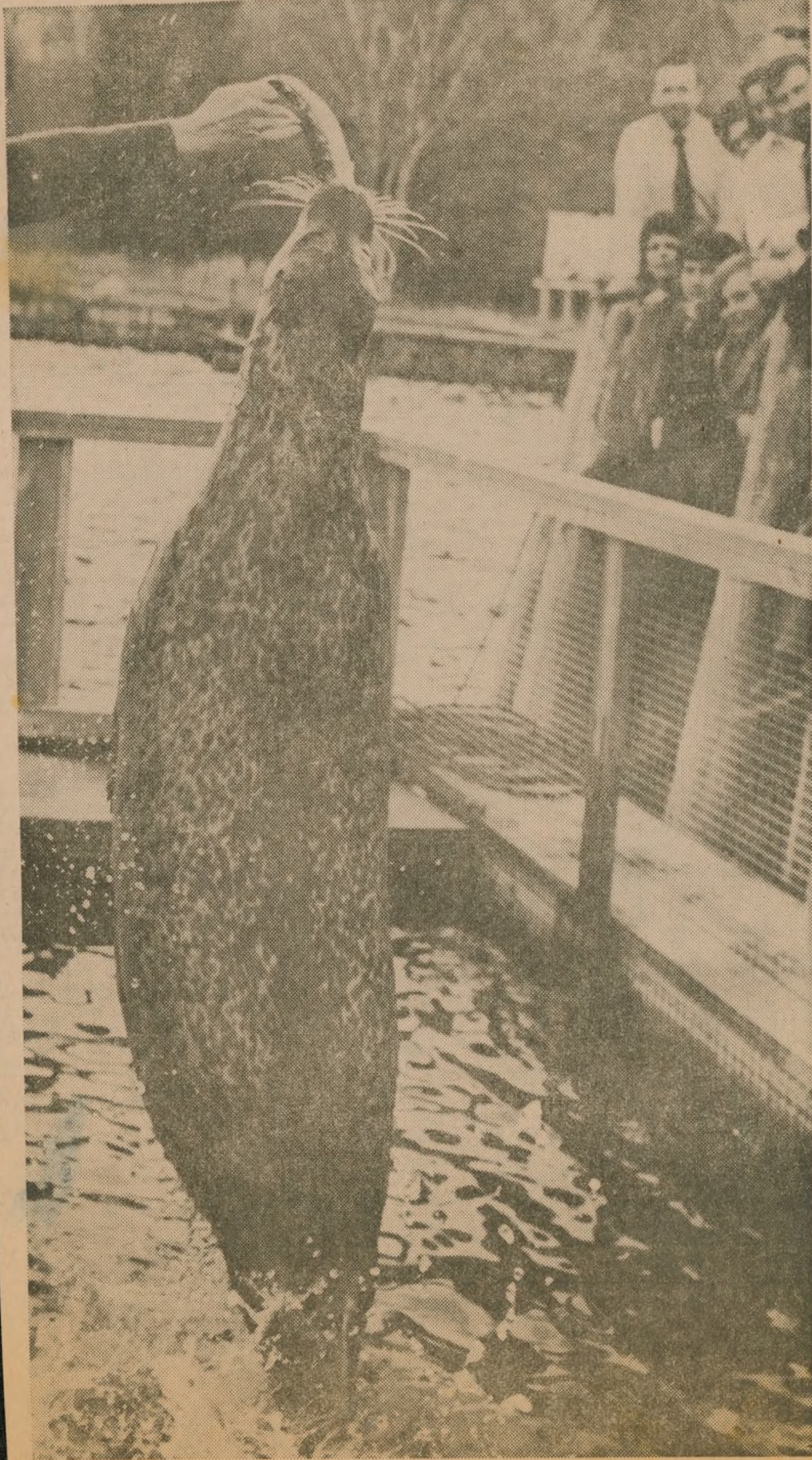
As polished as Andre's act is, Goodridge who also works with a tree service, maintains that any seal could do the same. "They are all smart."

Well maybe, but Andre has this flair.

He is set free every fall and swims "south" for the winter, showing up in Rockland Harbor, some 10 miles down the coast.

During the winter Andre "runs with the wild ones" Goodridge said, but every spring he swims back to Rockport Harbor, Goodridge, the cage and show biz.





**ANDRE'S BACK AT WORK** — Andre, Rockport's honorary harbor master and the pet of Harry Goodridge, the real harbor master, is back on duty. With summer coming, the seal, who has become famous through his appearances in the news media, left the

freedom of open water and entered his floating pen here. One of his first shows was for members and families of the University of Maine at Augusta Orchestra, which had played a concert here. Here he's getting his reward.

# Portland Press Herald



# Leave Him Alone

The National Marine Fisheries Service undoubtedly is a valuable and honorable arm of government.

Among its personnel there are unquestionably many conscientious public servants who apply the law fairly and reasonably and discharge their duties competently and intelligently. But when they talk about penalizing Harry Goodridge for keeping Andre the Seal a prisoner in Rockport Harbor they are out of their ever-lovin' skulls.

The federal boys have the arguments, of course. They don't write the law, they just enforce it. They can't make exceptions. The law must be applied evenly and firmly.

As justice is to be tempered with mercy, so enforcement should be tempered with reason.

We are unable to offer any quote direct from the seal's mouth, but the only conclusion must be that Andre likes his life at Rockport. The confines of the 20-foot pen seem not a prison wall to make. He can bask in the sun when he chooses or he can cavort in the water. Goodridge makes sure he's well cared for.

Andre winters elsewhere but returns faithfully to Rockport each spring. He wintered in the aquarium at Boston last year. He

wasn't trucked back to Rockport. He was turned loose in the ocean and he swam home to that 20-foot pen — and he made the trip in much less time than was expected. We must conclude he was eager to get back to Rockport and Goodridge.

So what would the Fisheries Service do, have him turned loose to be shot by a fisherman or some rockhead who will use a gun against anything that moves? Is it the decent thing to do to free Andre and leave him to his own resources after a lifetime of such dependency on Goodridge?

The number of things in society which make people feel warm and good is getting smaller and smaller. One of them is Andre, his Rockport summers and the relationship with his benefactor.

To suddenly decide, after all these years and the reams of publicity, that the relationship isn't lawful, to talk of \$10,000 fines and demand that Goodridge file a raft of forms in something like formal adoption proceedings for Andre, stinks worse than putrid flats at low water.

Goodridge, Andre and the Rockport arrangement make a bright spot in a grim world. The National Marine Fisheries Service shouldn't draw a black cloud across it.



## ANDRE: BUREAUCRATIC TARGET

**A**lone the Seal has become the target of an asinine bureaucratic exercise.

Rockport's harbor seal has come under government surveillance in connection with the marine mammals law enacted by congress in 1972 and which became effective January 1, 1973. The law provides for the protection of marine mammals and is designed to prevent their capture or decimation. That's fine. No one in his right mind would argue against such a measure. But interpreting the fine letter of the law to oust Andre from the life he has know for the past 14 years — since he was two days old — discredits the officials charged with enforcing the law and serves to distort the very meaning and intent of a reputable piece of legislation.

To back up: Harry Goodridge who found Andre as a two-day old pup, raised him, and trained him is considered more knowledgeable about harbor seals than almost anyone in the country. He has trained dozens of seals for museums and aquariums. For years, he has led Andre through a nightly feeding time performance that continues to astound visitors and home folks alike. During the winters — until last year — Harry releases Andre to the sea to lead a seal life. In spring, Andre returns.

Now what is unique in the Goodridge-Andre relationship is that Andre is given the right of self-determination. He may choose to live wild or free. But each year, he returns. This past winter, Harry contracted with the Boston Aquarium to keep Andre through the winter. When he was released from Marblehead this spring, Andre raced home in four days flat, and voluntarily entered his cage.

A week or so ago, three men approached Goodridge to tell him he was violating the law. These men are officials of the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Atmospheric Administration, National Fisheries Service for the New England Region, based in Gloucester, Mass.

Harry was told the bureau had been observing him for some time, that they were following up a complaint from a woman who wanted to know why she couldn't keep a seal if Goodridge could? Later, Harry heard from the Gloucester bureau that it was acting because a man had complained about Andre jumping in and out of boats.

According to the law, as Harry was informed, every time he allows Andre in and out of his cage, he is capturing a seal and thus violating federal law. He was told he must obtain a permit to capture and exhibit a seal, or be subject to a fine. The officials suggested he make application for such a permit and sent him a copy of the law. Then last week, Harry was notified by phone to hold onto his application. He's confused at this point, and with good reason.

Goodridge says he was not ignorant of the law, but he assumed that he was "grandfathered" and that it would not apply to seals in captivity such as Andre prior to 1973. Harry questions why the government took two years to approach him when bureau officials admitted he had been under observation. He wonders why these officials did not contact him by letter in advance of driving up before his door. He now is puzzled by the request to hold off on applying for the very permit he has been told to obtain.

In Washington, Sen. William Hathaway has intervened in Andre's behalf with the Secretary of Commerce. Meanwhile, Harry has received over 50 letters and phone calls within recent days and offers of legal assistance from two attorneys.

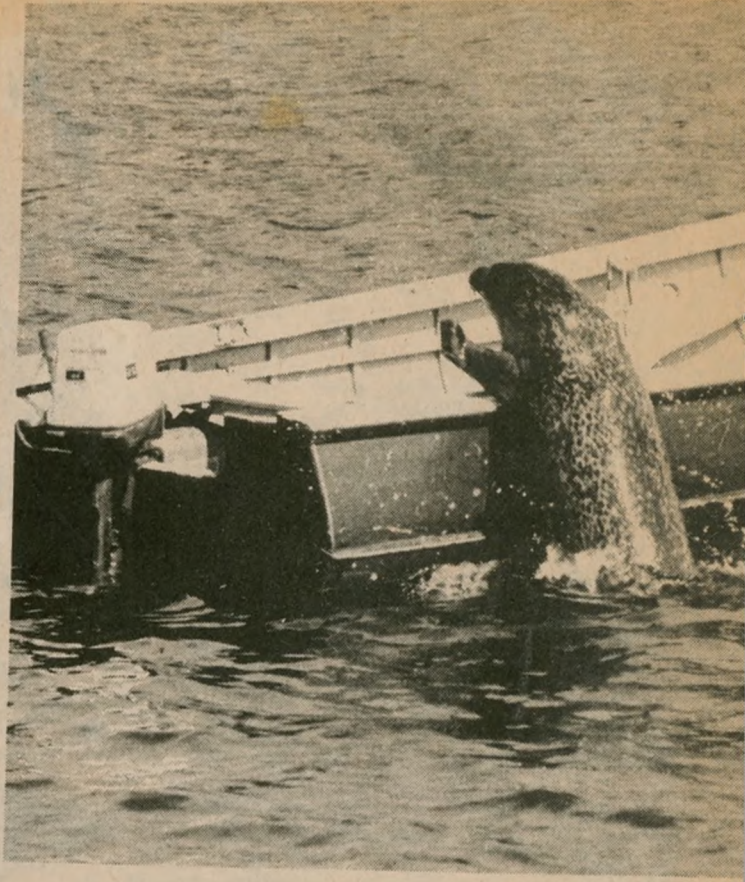
Harry Goodridge knows more about Andre than anyone else alive. No wild creature — if that term can be applied to Andre — races 200 miles down the Atlantic coast to return to his trainer unless he shares some special form of devotion for him. No man can explain with any certainty this unique relationship.

But sadly, instead of marveling that it exists, a government bureau with all the vision of a mule with blinders has chosen Andre as an apparent test case.

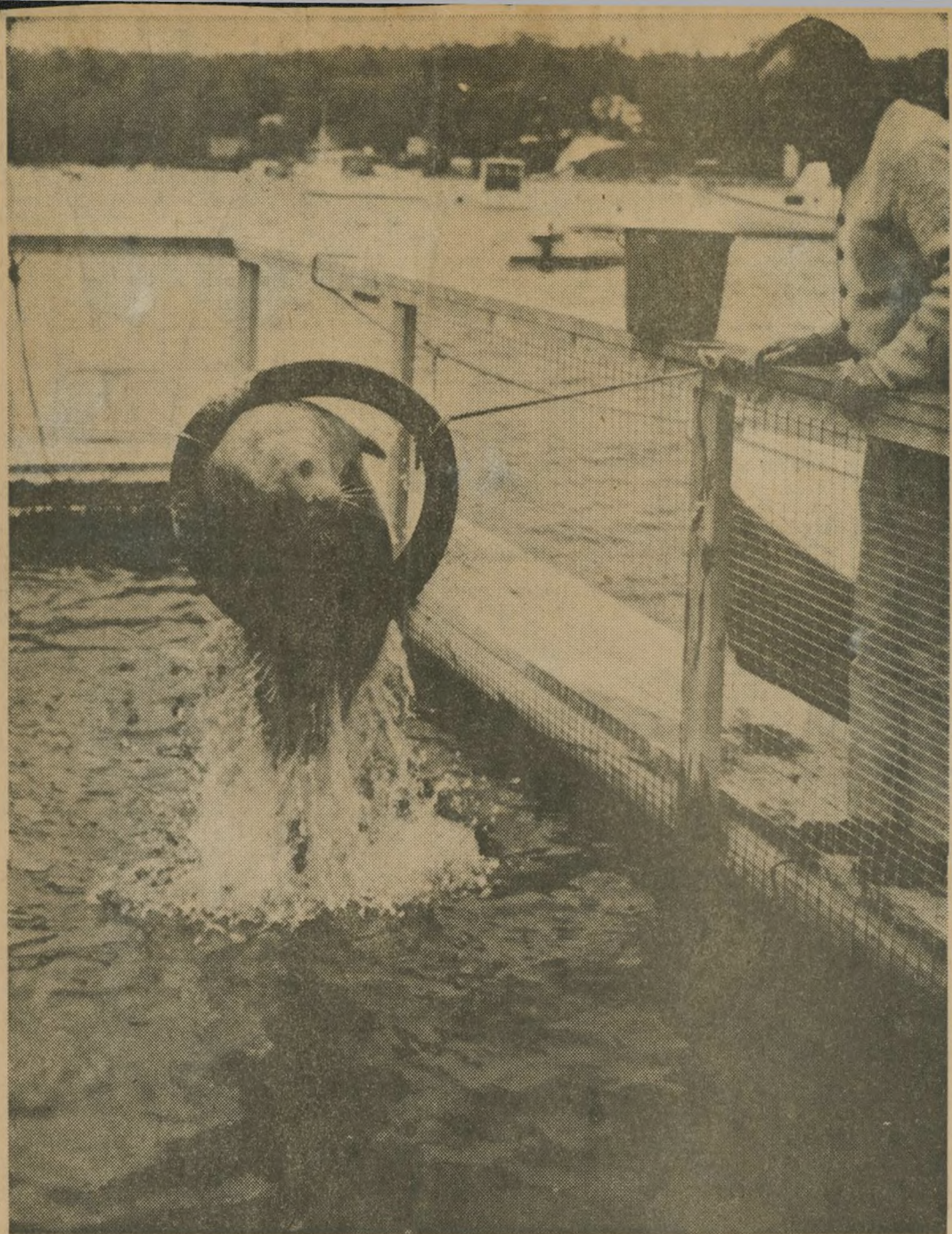
Harassing a man and his seal — for whom the new law may not even apply — is a pig-headed example of bureaucratic blundering.

Let Harry Goodridge take care of Andre. And let the government look after all the other mammals and endangered species that really need help.









*Andre And Harry June 10 - 1970*

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So he started working with the seals of Penobscot Bay. It was nothing planned, but Andre and Harry seemed to hit it off, and all of a sudden the seal was hanging around the harbor, looking for his friend. Since then the pair have been polishing their act.

After watching the pair run through their routine it wouldn't surprise people too much to see Andre come out of the water and drive Goodridge home some night. It seems he can do anything else.

Before Goodridge is even out of the boat, he is asking his co-star what he thinks of television's famous dolphin "Flipper". The seal hears the name and snorts his disgust at such an overrated performer. Then he waits for the fish.

Any seal worth his whiskers can leap through a hoop. Andre, after performing this feat easily, gets the command from Goodridge to "show them how you did it when you first started".

The seal takes a deep dive, then leaps halfway through the hoop - actually a bicycle tire - then balances evenly on the rim, high and dry.

Goodridge and friend then perform tricks like blowing the seal's nose audibly into a handkerchief, playing dead, rolling over and dancing and singing along with Goodridge.

Then Andre playfully splashes Goodridge, who feigns anger and pretends to kick the seal, who menacingly bites his leg, hanging on to the pant leg.

"What am I going to do?" Goodridge implores the closest audience composed of two children. "What is the magic word for a seal?"

"Fish," screams one of them.

The second the seal hears the word, he releases the pant leg and opens his ever-ready mouth for more fish.

As polished as Andre's act is, Goodridge who also works with a tree service, maintains that any seal could do the same. "They are all smart."

Well maybe, but Andre has this flair.

He is set free every fall and swims "south" for the winter, showing up in Rockland Harbor, some 10 miles down the coast.

During the winter Andre "runs with the wild ones" Goodridge said, but every spring he swims back to Rockport Harbor, Goodridge, the cage and show biz.



# Andre Getting Older, To Winter In Boston

ROCKPORT — Andre's going south for the winter soon.

For the first time in his 13 years, Rockport's official honorary harbor master — Andre the trained seal — won't have his winter freedom.

He won't be going to Florida, however. Harry Goodridge, the scuba diving tree expert who trained Andre, said the seal will go to the New England Aquarium in Boston.

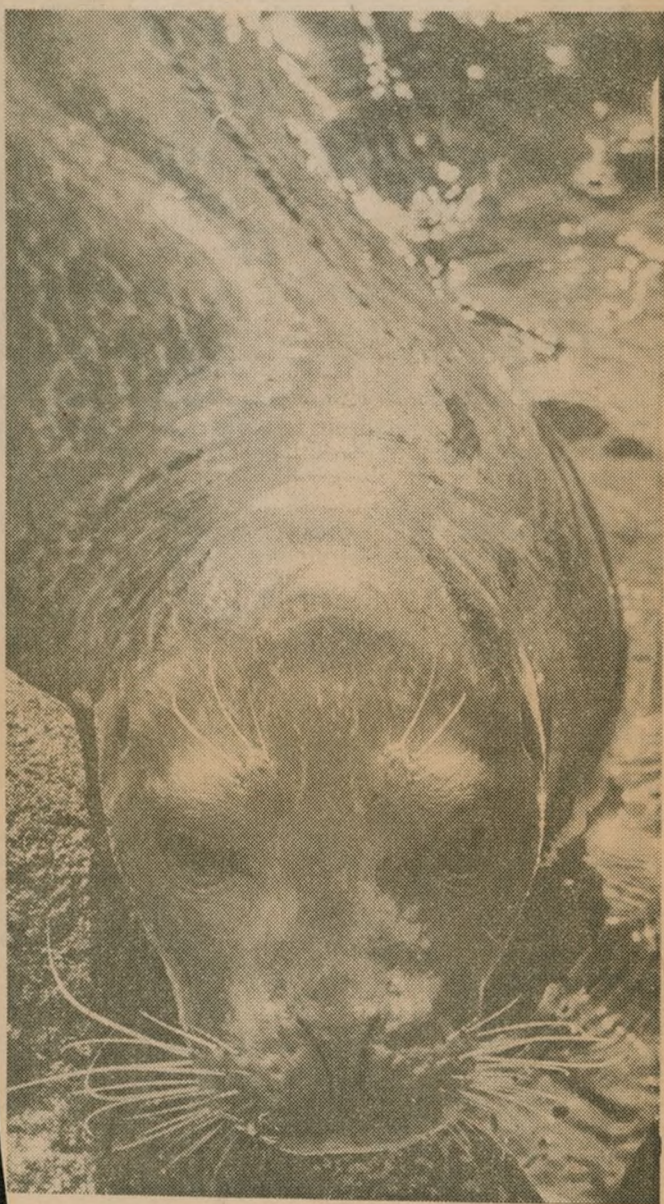
Andre spends his summers in a special wooden pen, which is hauled onto the public landing twice daily where he puts on a range of acts wider than those of sea lions, getting his payment in fish.

When winter comes he is released by Goodridge with the freedom of the harbor. When he was younger, Andre was known to make his own way southward as far away as Marblehead, safely returning home for the summer.

He's pretty heavy now, and when out on his own he has been known to bug boatmen, and in one instance, even tipped over a canoe, luckily without harm to the occupants.

So Goodridge is accepting an offer of the New England Aquarium for Andre to share a new seal pool with a couple of other harbor seals this winter.

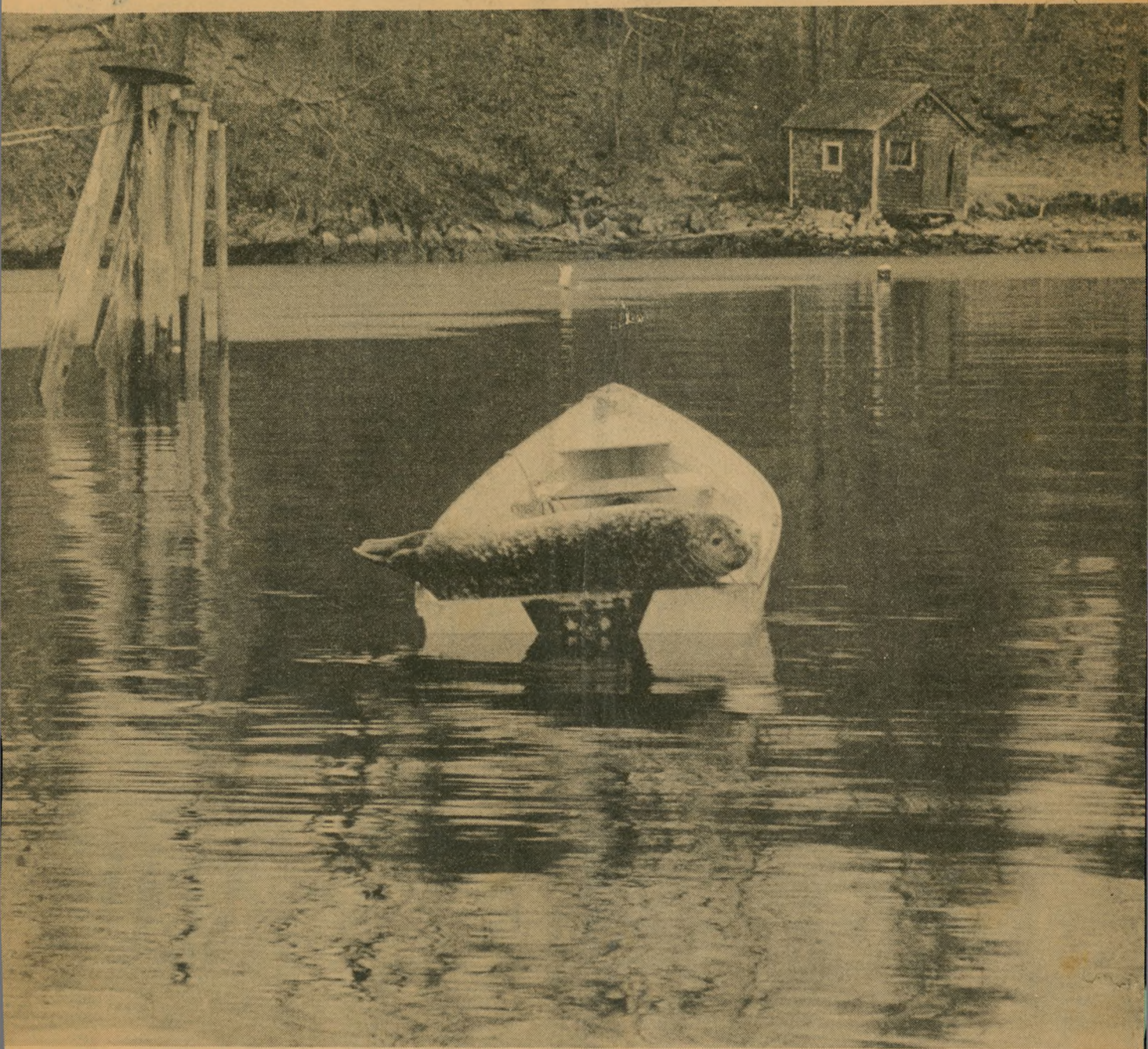
And when spring comes, as an experiment, plans are to release Andre in Boston Harbor and he will be timed while his homing instinct brings him back to Rockport.



*Andre rests quietly after a performance*



CAMDEN, MAINE, THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 1973



*Spring stirs the harbor water...and Andre knows it*

Ben Magro



July 7-1973



**ANDRE. THE SEAL WAS PROCLAIMED MARSHAL OF OCEANUS** and pollution patrol seal at ceremonies on Rockport Harbor Wednesday afternoon. Adm. E. R. Welles, chief executive of Oceanus, and CWO Kenneth Black, commander of the Rockland Coast Guard Base, were on hand to present the honorary badge to Andre. Oceanus is an organization whose purpose is to save the oceans of the world from the devastating effects of pollution. Andre's comrade in harbormaster duties, Harry Goodridge, placed the badge around the seal's neck. Welles' address in presenting the honorary Marshalship to the well known seal compared Andre and his duties as a pollution patrol "official" with Smokey the Bear's now famous efforts in forest fire prevention.

Miller Photo



# Andre the Seal Dropped Here For 180-Mile Swim to Maine

Andre, who was once called Josephine, has left Marblehead and is out in the Atlantic somewhere probably headed for home in Rockport, Me.

That 180 miles or so may seem like a long trip for a 13 year old but when you're a harbor seal it isn't too difficult, they say.

In fact, Andre who is friendly and a sort of mottled brown has already completed the trip once.

Part of the reason all those newspaper and TV reporters converged on Marblehead Harbor last Friday to see Andre depart is Andre's friendliness.

According to his best human friend, Harry Goodridge, 58, of Rockport, Andre is rather well known in Rockport for his over friendliness.

People trying to row didn't particularly like Andre's grabbing the oars all the time. And they didn't warm up very much to the idea of Andre-- all 240 pounds of him-- jumping into the boat to sun himself.

He was just too fun-loving and sociable, altogether too gregarious, they said.

So Goodridge, who acquired Andre 13 years ago when he

was a three-month old pup and has taught him a lot of tricks, let the New England aquarium board him all winter.

Having wintered in Boston, Andre should now summer in Maine, Goodridge decided. So he and Lou Garibaldi, the Aquarium's curator, trucked Andre up to Marblehead from Boston Friday.

Recruited to take the seal out to sea, so maybe he wouldn't become too friendly in the harbor here, was George Berry, local fisherman. Andre was carried aboard in his wooden cage by four men and more than a dozen cameramen and reporters clambered in.

Out past Marblehead Light, with the smell of the sea in his nostrils, Andre knew something was up. Besides there were all those humans around pointing box-like things at him that made clicking noises.

Comfortably out of the harbor, out near Cat Island, Berry cut the motor and Goodridge opened the door of the cage. Andre backed out quickly, took one look around at all those people focusing on him and climbed up the side of the boat.

Goodridge, who says he has owned many seals but Andre is his favorite, patted Andre fondly on his shoulder, or where his shoulder should be if seals have shoulders, and got a sad expression on his face. Andre, looked back into Goodridge's eyes, to say goodbye, and then slid noiselessly into the water. Those two had a lot of rapport.

Eager beaver photographers kept looking this way and that, hoping for one more shot of Andre. And Andre did stick his head up out of the water twice to take a final look at the boat, but from about 50 yards away.

Goodridge, supported enthusiastically by the curator, thinks it'll take Andre maybe two weeks to chart his course and complete the 180-mile swim from Marblehead to Rockport.

Under the name of Josephine, Andre was in Marblehead in 1962. He stayed in the harbor here for awhile but then swam back home to Rockport.

That's pretty good proof; if Andre did it once he can sure do it again, Goodridge told a reporter.



Marblehead Reporter  
December 6, 1973

## Harbor seal to winter at aquarium

Andre, a 200-pound, 13 year old Harborseal will spend his first winter in captivity at the New England Aquarium.

Andre was adopted by Harry Goodridge of Rockport, Maine, when he was a 2-day old pup. Since then he has enchanted summer visitors to Rockport with his antics. In the winter he would be let out to sea to forage for himself. Lately, Goodridge has been getting complaints from fishermen who object to the friendly, hefty seal who tends to climb into their boats to sun himself, and is highly reluctant to move.

So, the winter residents of Rockport were not exactly sorry to see Andre head South to Boston. In an agreement between the New England Aquarium and Goodridge, Andre will be the subject of a one-seal experiment when he is freed next spring to see how long it takes him to migrate back to Rockport.

In the meantime, Andre gets special treats from the hands of the pretty girl trainers. He and the other harborseals are on display in the new outdoor seal pool at the Aquarium.



11/16/73  
Boston Globe



Andre, a 200 pound seal who has become a celebrity for his antics in Rockport, will spend his first winter in captivity as a resident of the New England Aquarium. Since his birth 13 years ago, he has spent summers with skindiver Harry Goodridge "on stage" in Rockport. Each winter, Goodridge lets him go off to sea and each spring he returns. Next spring he'll be let go in Boston and his trip home will be timed as a sort of "seal homing" experiment. Meanwhile, Andre will spend the winter with the four other Aquarium seals. (Ellis Herwig photo)



# Boston Evening Globe

per Co.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1973

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Telephon



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**WHERE THERE'S SMOKE THERE'S FIRE**—If a seal could talk, Andre, left, Rockport's honorary harbormaster now at the New England Aquarium, might say he was anxious to return to Boston to bask again in the admiring glances of Smoke, a four-year-old female harbor seal. Even though Andre is 14 this year, aquarium officials said he had a good trip and is trim and in good health. Officials were reluctant to reveal when Andre might get back into performing shape, but said it would be soon. Sonny Allen, training director, here supplies

dinner for the pair shortly after Andre arrived Wednesday. This winter marks the second tryst for Andre and Smoke. Aquarium officials said no plans have yet been made to allow Andre to swim next spring from Boston Harbor to Rockport, as he did so successfully this year. The aquarium's mammal pavilion on Commonwealth Pier in Boston is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and until 9 p.m. Fridays. Shows are presented every hour and a half, beginning at 11:30 a.m.





ANDRE is pictured shortly before he began trek from Marblehead to Rockport, Maine.

AP Photo

## Boston Bids Andre Adieu

BOSTON (AP) — Andre, the big, overly friendly harbor seal, is going home after spending the winter at the New England Aquarium here.

The 13-year-old seal was released yesterday off Marblehead to go it alone around Cape Ann to his home near Rockport, Me.

Andre has lived since he was a pup in Rockport, where Harry Goodridge trained him and put him through his antics for summer visitors. In the winter he went out to sea.

But Goodridge says Andre was so friendly in the winters, he got to be a problem, climbing into fishing boats to sun himself.

A winter home was found at Boston's Aquarium.

APR. 1974

Boston American



## Aquarium's Star Boarder— Andre Leaves For Boston Winter

Andre is a light traveler, but still there was some concern at Rockport Harbor Wednesday afternoon about the amount of time it would take to cage the 240-pound seal, then lift and lug him into the blue New England Aquarium van. Andre is going to



**AQUARIUM BOUND** — Officials of the New England Aquarium in Boston, with the help of Harry Goodridge, caged, then hoisted an obliging Andre into their van Tuesday afternoon.

spend his second winter at the aquarium in Boston.

Actually, the day before, there was even more worry that Andre had skipped town to avoid the people and pressures of urban life. The seal had been reported missing from his pen by his friend and trainer, Harry Goodridge. But Andre finally returned...and obligingly greeted two Aquarium officials with some tricks Wednesday.

Goodridge regretted his fears, "I always underestimate Andre." He remembered saying that it would take the seal one to two weeks to swim from Marblehead, Massachusetts to Rockport after his stay at the Aquarium last winter. Andre made it back home in four days.

About mid-day Lou Garibaldi, curator of the Aquarium, and Sonny Allen, trainer in charge of mammals, arrived in Rockport...their first visit there and their first meeting with Andre. While the two men ate lunch, fish to lure Andre into his traveling cage was unfrozen.

Even though he sometimes swallows fish whole, Andre is fussy about his food...He loves blue fish, but rejects haddock.

The small cage to transport Andre south had been placed

already beside Andre's pen, so it was only a question of how to get the seal into it. Allen, Garibaldi and Goodridge motored out to the pen. Any skepticism the men had about Andre's training was dispelled immediately when Andre began performing for his lunch. The trick in which the seal purposely gets stuck in his hoop, rather than clearing it, received a hand clap from the Aquarium's mammal trainer.

After the show the men lifted the cage into the pen and opened its door. Within minutes, a willing seal slipped inside, as an admiring crowd watched from the parking lot and The Sail Loft Restaurant. With some sure-footing, the three men hoisted the cage and a captured Andre over the pen and into the awaiting boat.

Back ashore, the cage was dragged to the Aquarium van. But before leaving, some parting words.

Harry Goodridge, Andre's friend for 14 years, advised the seal, "Behave yourself. See you after winter."

There was some reassuring talk about Andre's imminent reunion with an Aquarium girlfriend.



# sea mammal Institute magazine

Volume II, No. 2, July-October, 1971

*A greeting between  
Harry Goodridge  
and his seal,  
Andre*



## harry goodridge

Free releasing is nothing new to Harry Goodridge. He's been aware of its advantages and practicing it for years. Harry's interest in seals began 12 years ago when, in his own words, he knew they "must be good for something."

In 1959, Harry decided it was time to find out about his aquatic neighbors. Being a diver all his life, he thought that having a seal companion underwater would be as rewarding as having a dog on land, and so, Harry captured a baby seal during the breeding season, experimented with formulas, and raised his first seal — to be followed by dozens more.

Two years later, he captured Andre, the now famous New England seal that has been declared Honorary Harbor Master of Rockport, Maine, been given the Key to the City, and proven to the Navy that seals can do things that man cannot do, even with all man's gadgetry and computers.

Together, Harry and Andre make a team. Harry has taught Andre to do more things than probably any other harbor seal in the world. In turn, Andre has made Harry into the most practical authority in the business. It would be hard to ever imagine one without the other.

The system of cooperation is unusual. In the winter, Andre lives in the wild. He swims with the herds and behaves in general as any wild seal should, even breeding with females. But, every morning he visits Harry through breathing holes in the harbor. Andre used to spend his summers free as well, but his habitual urges to jump into boats and creep up behind divers to steal flippers off their feet ended that. Andre has learned to compromise by living in a floating cage that Harry had built for him during the summer months. During his feedings, Harry often lets him out to stretch his flippers and run around the harbor a bit before he gets back into his cage. At the end of the season, when visitors are gone and there are fewer boats in the harbor, Andre once again lives his wild existence.